**DISTANCE SCOUTING PROGRAMME 23**

**(21 AUGUST 2020)**

**“THE N\*S\*A – THE DURBAN COVID CONFERENCE”**

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| **You have until 19h00 on Friday 28 August 2020 to complete this programme. Follow the instructions carefully and you will be marked “present” for the programme, earn points for your patrol and hopefully compete some advancement and prepare for upcoming programmes and camps. More importantly, HAVE FUN!!!** |

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| **Equipment required for programme:**   * A cellphone with internet access and WhatsApp access to your patrol WhatsApp Group. * A blindfold and 15 items that you will identify by touch (you must not know what these are!) * A phone or camera with the ability to take a video. * Your personal journal |

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| **The PL should, as always, designate who is doing what and, if nobody is doing an item (such as posting a training video) do this item so that the patrol can complete the programme. In this programme the PL must in particular make arrangements for the game item, which is to be done as a patrol.** |

You were really busy last week. Not only did you uncover some vital clues as to what threat faces the Covid-19 conference in Durban, but you also managed to guide in some bombers to destroy the enemy HQ.

Hopefully this will hamstring the terrorists in plotting any further plots in the future. For now though, you need to get back to South Africa and foil the plot against the Covid-19 conference.

**INSPECTION:**

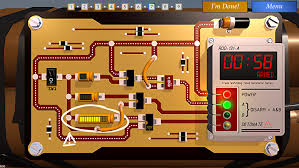
You are heading back to South Africa, which is still in the grip of the Coronavirus pandemic (although the infection rate seems to be dropping steadily). How prepared are you to be moving back into the “danger zone”?

**This counts for part of Item 2 of the Covid-19 Awareness Badge. For full requirements visit** <https://www.scouts.org.za/2020/05/26/covid-19-awareness-badge/>

A few weeks ago you should have learnt the Covid-19 hotline number. How sharp is your memory?

Without looking it up, post the Covid-19 hotline number on your Patrol WhatsApp Group. If you can’t remember it, look it up and post the number anyway, but write next to it that you had to look it up. Then learn the number!

Remember, a scout’s honour is to be trusted!

**GAME:**

Your investigation into the base on Howland Island gave important clues as to the plot the terrorists are planning for Durban. It is a two-pronged attack and is quite diabolical!

Firstly they plan to set off a regular bomb. This will kill many by itself, but it will also cause utter chaos as people flee from the conference building into the streets. It is then that the second part of their dastardly plan will take effect.

Your first job is to defuse the bomb. This needs to be done as a patrol. You can do it using WhatsApp or you can do it on an online portal like Zoom, Teams of Discord. Due to the lifting of certain lockdown restrictions you can even do this at a physical patrol meeting (just remember your mask and social distancing). Your PL will set up a time that the game will take place and how it should take place.

To play the game visit <https://www.escape-the-boom.com/> **before** you play the game.

One of your patrol members needs to be designated as the defuser. The defuser needs to download the app from this site and will be the only member of your patrol who can see and work on “the bomb”. The defuser should be able to communicate effectively, as he or she needs to be able to describe the bomb accurately to the rest of the patrol and needs to be able to keep a clear head.

The rest of the patrol is designated as bomb disposal technicians. They should each download or print the manual from the site (the defuser should not have the manual) and should be on hand to receive a description of the bomb from the defuser. Using the manual you should be able to give the defuser instructions on how to defuse the bomb, but beware, you will only have five minutes to defuse the bomb!

You can play the game as many times as you want. Post a picture of the end results of your effort to defuse the bomb (a screen shot is fine) on your patrol WhatsApp group.

**Planning and running a patrol meeting will count towards your Star Patrol Award, and if you are clever you can include various other advancement items in the programme too! If you do a joint programme with a patrol from another troop this can count towards Item 1vii of the Personal Development Section of the First Class Badge.**

**BONUS POINTS!!! If plan and make this game part of a full patrol meeting (either online or in person) you will double the points that you earn as a patrol for this programme. If you get a potential recruit to visit your patrol meeting, you will double the points again. Just make sure your TS approves your patrol meeting programme and that you have any permits in place and a proper plan to ensure social distancing if you meet in person.**

**THE DIRTY BOMB:**

The second part of the attack is a so-called “dirty bomb”. Essentially by combining certain elements and chemicals the terrorists hope to create a radioactive cloud that will cause death or severe illness in anyone who is exposed to it.

The dirty bomb is located underground in the labyrinth of corridors under Durban’s Addington hospital. If the bomb goes off, it will difuse around the city via the sewer system, impacting on people in the streets. The chaos caused by the first bomb means that there will be plenty of people in the streets and emergency services are going to struggle to get to everyone with the streets clogged with victims.

You and your patrol descend into the belly of the hospital and are about to defuse the bomb when Eskom’s loadshedding kicks into place. The entire hospital is plunged into darkness, and you don’t have a torch or time to fetch one. Luckily you know how to defuse the bomb, you just need to do it by touch!

**This counts towards item 4 of the Scoutcraft Observation Badge. You need to score 12 out of 15 to pass the item. Visit** <https://scoutwiki.scouts.org.za/index.php?title=Observation_Scoutcraft_Badge> **for the full requirements of the badge.**

**You will need your parents or a sibling to help you with this item. Your helper needs to gather 15 common objects together. When you are ready, your can enter the room with the objects in, blindfolded. See how many of the objects you can identify. If you get 12 or more of the objects, you “defuse” the bomb. Post a picture of you next to the objects and your score. Remember, no cheating!**

**ON THE RUN:**

The terrorist cell has realised that you are on to them and has attempted to shoot their way out of Durban. Though most of them get away, one of them has been injured in the exchange.

**This counts towards items 4ia and 4id of the Skills Section of the Traveller Badge. Visit pages 230 to 231 of “My Scout Journey” to see some first aid safety tips.**

Paramedics are on the way, but you will need to stabilised him before they arrive. If he survives, he may be able to provide invaluable intel as to the location of the gang. Make sure you are safe before you stabilise the terrorist.

**Post a short video on your Patrol Whatsapp Group where you do the following:**

* **Explain and demonstrate the importance of the correct use and disposal of latex gloves;**
* **Explain the dangers of a dirty wound and the risk of HIV and Hepatitus B caused by exposure to other people’s blood.**

**BLOGS:**

Post an update in either your personal log or on your patrol Blog on what you did this week as an update to base while you pursue the gang.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

* Applications for the National Senior Scout Adventure are now open. If you are going to be 15 or older please message your PL that you want to take part and register at <https://cederbergadventure.co.za/>. **DO NOT PAY A DEPOSIT YET!!!**
* A reminder that SCOUTS South Africa has made branded facemasks available at a cost of R40,00 per mask, excluding delivery. Visit the online scout shop at <https://shop.scouts.org.za/> to place your order.
* The Northrand Scout District is running a competition for all NORTHRAND Scouts. The Northrand Scout that earns the most interest and/or scoutcraft badges during the lockdown will win a prize worth roughly R150,00. Can you be the best in the district and scoop the prize?

SCOUTS South Africa has developed a Covid-19 awareness badge. Are you up to the challenge? Visit <https://www.scouts.org.za/2020/05/26/covid-19-awareness-badge/> for information on the requirements.

* Contact scouting is allowed to a limited degree. Outdoor activities in patrol-sized groups are now allowed, check with your TS to see if you can plan an activity for your patrol and have some scouting fun face-to-face.

**TROOP DISMISSED!**